

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T STATE 211397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, JO

SUBJECT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER (CAT) TALKS BRIEFINGS

1. ON AUGUST 17 DEPARTMENT (PM/NEA) BRIEFED EMBASSY OF
JORDAN ACTING DCM FAROUK AHMAD KASRAWI ON RECENT US-USSR
CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT TALKS IN HELSINKI
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
BEGIN TEXT OF TALKING POINTS
A. BACKGROUND

--US AND SOVIET SIDES HAVE MET THREE TIMES TO DISCUSS
CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT. A SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE
REALLY BEGAN ONLY IN MAY IN HELSINKI, AFTER WHICH THE
SIDES ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH THEY AGREED (1) THAT
THE PROBLEM OF LIMITING ARMS TRANSFERS WAS URGENT AND
(2) TO HOLD REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO EXPLORE
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CONCRETE MEASURES THAT COULD BE TAKEN.

--IN MAY THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD)
ADOPTED A PROGRAM OF ACTION CALLING FOR CONSULTATIONS
AMONG SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS ON LIMITING ARMS TRANSFERS.
US-SOVIET BILATERAL MEETINGS REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT TO
BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THAT UN MANDATE.

--EVENTS IN LATIN AMERICA, SUCH AS THE JUNE 22 DECLARATION BY THE EIGHT SIGNATORIES OF THE 1974 DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO CALLING FOR A LATIN AMERICAN AGREEMENT LIMITING CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS OF MEXICO TOWARD THE SAME END, ALSO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORK OF RESTRAINING ARMS TRANSFERS.

B. OVERALL FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRAINT

--THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS.

1. POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA.

--THESE CRITERIA WOULD BE BASED ON THE UN CHARTER, UN RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DOCUMENTS.

--THEY SHOULD SERVE TWO PURPOSES: (1) IDENTIFYING LEGAL CONSTRAINTS ON ARMS TRANSFERS; AND (2) IDENTIFYING RELEVANT POLITICAL FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN MAKING ARMS TRANSFER DECISIONS.

--A GOOD BASIS EXISTS FOR THE ELABORATION OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE.

2. MILITARY/TECHNICAL CRITERIA.

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--COMMONLY AGREED MILITARY/TECHNICAL CRITERIA TO SET BOUNDARIES ON THE TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF WEAPONS TO BE PROVIDED.

--THESE CRITERIA ARE EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS POLITICAL/LEGAL CRITERIA; AND AGREEMENT ON BOTH TYPES OF CRITERIA IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO HAVE A COHERENT AND COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR RESTRAINT.

3. REGIONAL APPLICATION.

--ARRANGEMENTS TO APPLY CRITERIA IN REGIONAL CONTEXTS.

--IT IS IMPORTANT TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO CRITERIA THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE GENERAL AND ABSTRACT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST, SUBJECT TO MANY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS.

C. INTERIM RESTRAINT REGIME.

--BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT, IN ADVANCE OF FINAL AGREEMENT ON CRITERIA, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH INTERIM RESTRAINT

AGREEMENTS FOR SPECIFIC REGIONS.

-A BASIS WAS LAID THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS MIGHT CONSIST OF
LISTS OF WEAPONS TO BE RESTRAINED.

--BOTH SIDES AGREED IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ANY REGION
OR SUB-REGION OF THE WORLD, PROVIDED THEY WERE NOT
ARTIFICALLY CONTRIVED.

D. ROLE OF OTHER SUPPLIERS/RECIPIENTS.

BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE
PARTICIPATION OF OTHER SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS IN DEVELOPING
AND/OR SUPPORTING ANY RESTRAINT REGIME.

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--BOTH SIDES WERE HOPEFUL THAT OTHER SUPPLIERS AND RECI-
PIENTS WOULD FIND IT IN THEIR INTERESTS TO SUPPORT ARMS
TRANSFER RESTRAINT.

--WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS OUR POSITION THAT THE
LEGITIMATE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF RECIPIENTS MUST BE MET.

E. ASSESSMENT OF ROUND III AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

--THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT TOWARD A COMMON UNDER-
STANDING OF GENERAL GUIDELINES OR CRITERIA FOR RESTRAINT
IN ARMS TRANSFERS.

--SOVIETS AGAIN APPEARED TO TAKE THESE DISCUSSIONS
SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THE NEXT ROUND -- TENTATIVELY PLANNED
FOR DECEMBER TO ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO UNDERTAKE THOROUGH
PREPARATIONS -- WILL PROVIDE A TEST OF THE PROSPECTS FOR
NEAR-TERM SUCCESS. END TEXT OF TALKING POINTS.

2. KASRAWI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING AND
DID NOT HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

3. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON TALKING POINTS PARA 1 FOR
DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS CONSIDERED
APPROPRIATE.

4. DEPARTMENT (ACDA/PM/NEA) WILL ALSO BE BRIEFING
EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT, PAKISTAN, INDIA, IRAN,
ISRAEL, MOROCCO, AND SAUDI ARABIA. VANCE

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